



Homeland
Security

JUN 30 2004

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

Thank you for your letter concerning the recent investigative report by CBS 4 Boston on security at Boston's Logan International Airport (BOS) and the current state of security plans and procedures at BOS.

I want to assure you that perimeter security and the precise and accurate knowledge of all individuals and vehicles accessing the secured area of our airports has been and remains one of our primary areas of emphasis. Toward that end, specific and detailed requirements for vehicle identification and inspection were released in the form of a mandatory Airport Security Directive (SD), last updated in June 2003. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has confirmed that Massport is in receipt of this SD. Unfortunately, as CBS 4 Boston reported, Massport was not in compliance with either the SD or the local Airport Security Program, a finding duplicated by TSA in local regulatory inspections on May 15 and 16, 2004.

In answer to your more specific questions, TSA reports that there have been several recent security enhancements to the BOS vehicle entry procedures. According to TSA representatives onsite, the new procedures do, in fact, require both the inspection and positive verification of a driver's ID. This requirement is included in the airport's security plan on file with TSA. The TSA Federal Security Director at BOS is working closely with the airport to ensure compliance with its security plan and TSA is monitoring the proper implementation of security requirements on a routine basis.

I am grateful for your continued interest in the security of BOS and the vehicle identification and inspection programs of our airports nationwide. The Department of Homeland Security shares the same concern for the need to continue enforcing TSA's stringent requirements in this critical area to ensure the security of our Nation's aviation system and the flying public.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-4412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Turner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs